

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 24, 2006. Claims 1 to 15 and 21 to 30 are in the application, of which Claims 1, 6, 11, 21 and 26 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 3, 6 to 8 and 11 to 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,960,406 (Rasansky) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,330,071 (Vidyanand). Claims 4, 5, 9, 10, 14, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Rasansky in view of Vidyanand and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,020,973 (Levine). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns an information processing apparatus connected to an external apparatus, such as a client, and a plurality of print servers. The information processing apparatus generates print data corresponding to a preview displayed on a display of the external apparatus and then selects a print server from the plurality of print servers to which the print data is transmitted. The information processing apparatus selects the print server from the among the plurality of print servers in accordance with the external apparatus.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to an information processing apparatus which includes a receiving unit adapted to receive a request from an external apparatus; a generation unit adapted to generate, in response to a received request from the external apparatus, print data corresponding to a preview displayed on a display screen on the external apparatus; a selecting unit adapted to select a print server to transmit the generated print data from plural print servers, wherein

the print server is selected in accordance with the external apparatus; an obtaining unit adapted to obtain instructions for printing via the display screen on the external apparatus; and a transmission control unit adapted to control transmission so that the print data generated by the generation unit is transmitted to a print server selected by the selecting unit in response to the obtaining unit for obtaining instructions for printing.

Applicant submits that Rasansky and Vidyanand, alone or in any permissible combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least the features of an information processing apparatus which includes a receiving unit adapted to receive a request from an external apparatus; a generation unit adapted to generate, in response to a received request from the external apparatus, print data corresponding to a preview displayed on a display screen on the external apparatus; a selecting unit adapted to select a print server to transmit the generated print data from plural print servers, wherein the print server is selected in accordance with the external apparatus; an obtaining unit adapted to obtain instructions for printing via the display screen; and a transmission control unit adapted to control transmission so that the print data generated by the generation unit is transmitted to a print server selected by the selecting unit in response to the obtaining unit for obtaining instructions for printing.

In contrast, Rasansky discloses a system that allows users of the system to reserve times in one another's schedules, (column 1, lines 10 to 11 of Rasansky). The system disclosed in Rasansky has clients and servers that allow users to communicate with one another, (column 4, lines 10 to 13 of Rasansky). However, Rasansky is entirely silent in regard to management of print data much less management of print data in an environment including a plurality of print servers. Therefore, Rasansky cannot disclose or

suggest a selecting unit adapted to select a print server to transmit the generated print data from plural print servers, wherein the print server is selected in accordance with the external apparatus as featured in Claim 1.

Vidyanand discloses a variable print job system that reduces a master and variable jobs into a single job sent from a client to a printer. (abstract of Vidyanand). Referring now to Fig. 14 of Vidyanand, a printer or print server 1405 receives a print job from a client 1401. A detection mechanism 1406 on the printer 1405 detects that the print job is special and the job is forwarded to a disassemble print job task 1407. The disassemble print job task 1407 disassembles the print job and overlays the proper variable pages onto the appropriate master pages. Each combined page is sent to a print engine 1408 to be printed. Therefore, Vidyanand discloses a printer or print server that generates combined pages from a print job received from the client and then printing the combined pages. As the printer or print server has the complete print job, and is coupled only to a single print engine, Vidyanand cannot disclose or suggest a selecting unit adapted to select a print server to transmit the generated print data from plural print servers, wherein the print server is selected in accordance with the external apparatus and an obtaining unit adapted to obtain instructions for printing via the display screen on the external apparatus.

In light of the deficiencies of Rasansky and Vidyanand as discussed above, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claims 6, 11, 21, and 26 are a system, method, medium, and program corresponding to the apparatus of Claim 1. Therefore, Applicant

submits that Claims 6, 11, 21, and 26 are now in condition for Allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

The other claims in the application are dependent from the independent claims discussed above and therefore are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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